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California Fish and Game Commission
Attn: Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Mr. Mastrup,

I am currently residing in California as I have all my life so far, and I am aware that there are strict laws when it comes to the animals allowed for pets. I am writing with some concerns that I have encountered regarding the illegality of ferrets.

Ferrets are considered to be exotic animals; however I don't see any reasons why that is. I understand that there is worry about ferrets escaping into the wild and breeding to form wild packs, but the ferrets that would be sold as pets are domesticated enough to where this shouldn't be a problem. After all, almost all ferrets are spayed or neutered. In regards to ferrets hunting and killing other animals, ferrets are far more likely to be prey due to their inability to hunt. Another reason you may have for not allowing ferrets as pets could relate to the potential disease that ferrets could carry. In reality, domesticated ferrets have a low tendency to catching diseases, and when they do they die almost immediately. Another concern I have is the wasted money spent on confiscating ferrets owned in California when ferrets do no harm and are just as worthy to be pets as a dog is.

Legalizing ferrets in California is important because it gives more rights. The less rights we have, the more the government is in control, especially when the right taken away isn't for the benefit of the majority. This limits what we can make as our own property. Property has great value to us, and the larger the variety of property that can be obtained, the more property is acquired by individuals.

The reason why this country is affected by ferrets being illegal in California is because it shows that the government can still get away with something that goes against the majority's vote. This is giving more power to the government. The power elite makes sense when dealing with big situations that can be controversial, however legalizing ferrets doesn't even do any harm and it really isn't a controversial issue, yet it still hasn't been done.

Ferrets benefit the mental health of individuals. Caring for a ferret can sooth and relax the mind, relieving it of stress that was once there before. This is proof backing up how ferrets can benefit the health of those owning one. Ferrets may play a role in the results of these studies, since ferrets can be pricey for base price as well as the money spent on caring for the ferret. Ferrets would mostly be owned by those of an upper class, as they help relax the owner and are a form

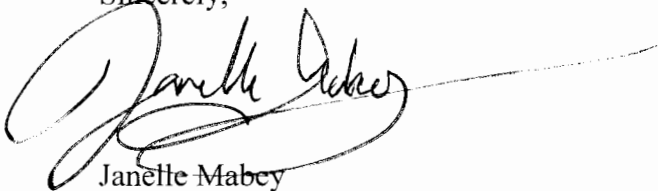
of a stress relief. This is similar to another proven relation between fish and stress relief, which is one of the reasons why fish tanks are so popular in homes, also mainly of the upper class.

Ferrets add to families and can bring families together. Owning a ferret provides another option to owning a pet, which allows for teamwork. When it comes to owning a pet within a family, all of the family members must work together to care for the animal, which allows the members of the family to bond with each other and interact more often. This can be beneficial to the community as ferrets give a larger variety in case other animals don't work out.

The reason why I chose to address this letter to you is because you are the executive director of the California Department of Fish and Game, so you are in the position and have the authority to help allow for the legalization of ferrets in California. Legalizing ferrets would put a lot of complaints to rest as well as help our country remain true to the pledge of freedom. California is currently one of the only states in the country to not allow ferrets as pets. Obviously, ferrets must not cause as much havoc as thought since so many other states allow them as pets as they have for a while now. If ferrets were to be legalized to have as pets, a solution to any possible problems would be to mandate rabies vaccines and to ensure all ferrets sold as domestic pets are neutered or spayed. Also, all ferrets can be micro chipped. This would benefit both the owners and the pets.

In my opinion, a logical action would be to legalize ferrets as pets in California, keeping in mind the actions that can be taken for precautions to the problems causing ferrets to be considered exotic pets like they are now like ensuring the sold domestic ferrets are spayed or neutered and the requirement for vaccines. If it would help, I can easily provide petitions or testimonials in regards to this situation from those who support the legalization of ferrets in California. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janelle Mabey", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Janelle Mabey